

Fall 2012

Portland State Library Update: News for Supporters and Friends; Fall 2012

Portland State University Library

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Portland State University Welcomes Marilyn Moody, University Librarian

This past August, the Library said goodbye to Interim University Librarian Lynn Chmelir and hello to new University Librarian, Marilyn Moody. Following a six-month long national search, Portland State University appointed Moody, former Dean of the library at Boise State University, as PSU's new University Librarian.

"I am excited to be assuming the position of University Librarian at Portland State," Moody said. "I have been impressed with the vibrancy of the University and the dedication of the Library faculty and staff. I am looking forward to working with the campus community on Library initiatives to enhance student success, support teaching and learning, and provide increased access to scholarly and research materials."

Before joining Boise State in 2006, Moody served in administrative positions in the libraries at the University of California, Santa Barbara; the University of Buffalo; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York; and Iowa State University. She is the co-author with Jean L. Sears of three editions of the reference work "Using Government Information Sources." She has a master's degree in library science and a bachelor's degree in teaching of social studies, both from the University of Illinois.

Portland State University Provost, Sona Karentz Andrews says of Marilyn Moody, "We are fortunate to have Marilyn join our academic leadership team. I had the pleasure of working with her at Boise State University and I know firsthand her steadfast commitment to providing students, faculty, and staff with the resources needed to ensure the highest quality academic environment. Marilyn's knowledge, creativity, and innovative ideas coupled with the dedicated and talented Library staff make a winning combination."

from Marilyn Moody, University Librarian



As I begin my time as Portland State Library's new University Librarian, I'd like to first thank Interim University Librarian Lynn Chmelir for all her hard work over the past year. I step into my new position with great excitement for what is to come and also deep gratitude for the faculty, staff, and volunteers who have made my transition feel seamless. The work that has already been done here and the many goals accomplished give me confidence that together we can continue to achieve excellence for the future.

Libraries throughout the country have faced a remarkable period of change in the last few years—and PSU is no exception. Academic libraries have a long history of making information accessible and supporting research, teaching, and learning on their campuses. We now must also navigate a fast-paced environment that includes new technologies, rapid advances in online and mobile learning, increased use of e-books, new instructional roles, and a renewed emphasis on creating student-centered library spaces and services.

At the same time, some of our most unique and rare library and archival materials that previously could

only be used by a single user within the library can now be digitized and shared worldwide. We have a great responsibility to provide the continuing care and stewardship for these items in our collections while working to make them as accessible to others as possible.

In the midst of growth and change, the University Library must be thoughtful and focused in setting our priorities and supporting our diverse, metropolitan campus. I'd like to thank the faculty, staff, and volunteers at the University Library in advance for collaborating with me to support student success and faculty research and teaching. The University Library has a unique and innovative role to play within the university and the greater Portland community.

With all the many exciting firsts in my position, I especially look forward to meeting all of our passionate donors and supporters. I invite you to join me in celebrating the past and the future successes of the Portland State University Library at our Open House in October.

Q&A with Marilyn Moody

What are some of your goals for your first year at PSU?

Most immediately, I'd like to meet as many people as possible, with the goal of listening carefully to everyone's ideas about how the University Library can best serve our community. The University Library already has a strategic plan and a number of ongoing initiatives, and I plan to work closely with the library staff and faculty to prioritize and support those initiatives. An additional goal is to look for ways to increase the library acquisitions and information resources needed for our faculty and students.

When you read for pleasure, what genre do you prefer?

I read many different genres and also listen to audiobooks. I belong to a book club that reads different genres each time we meet, and I like the challenge of reading something I might not normally read. I tend to prefer fiction—a couple of books I've enjoyed recently are Richard Ford's *Canada* and *Mudwoman* by Joyce Carol Oates.



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Focus on History: The Rutherford Family Collection

Fall Exhibit September 24–December 14

This fall, the Library is featuring “Say We Are Here: Culture, Community and Activism across Four Generations of Black Oregonians,” an exhibit curated and designed by the students of Professor Patricia Schechter that highlights items from Special Collections’ new accession, the Verdell Burdine and Otto Rutherford Family Collection. Donated to the Library in 2012 by Verdell and Otto’s daughter, Charlotte Rutherford, the collection is one of the most significant of its kind in Oregon. Featuring unique and rare documents, publications, photographs, scrapbooks, ephemera, and newspapers spanning over 100 years of Oregon’s African American history, the collection was gathered, annotated, and maintained by Verdell Rutherford. In addition to serving as community historian, Verdell and her husband were known for their active roles as community leaders, working with a number of influential organizations including the Culture Club, a philanthropic African American women’s group founded in the 1920s, and the Portland chapter of NAACP.

In the spirit of Special Collections’ commitment to access and learning, the Rutherford Family Collection has been open to researchers and students from the day it entered the Library. Led by public history professor Schechter, Portland State students were immediately involved in helping inventory the collection and laying the groundwork for this fall’s exhibit. The collection will also be highlighted in November in a public program organized and hosted by the Library in collaboration with the Black Studies Department, the History Department, and the local community.



Earl and Maggie Burdine with their children, Alfred, Delores, and Verdell. Marshfield, Oregon, 1914.



Cover, 1978 NAACP National Convention program, Portland, Oregon.

Over the past ten years, Special Collections has focused on building a significant collection of primary materials documenting the history and development of 20th century Oregon, with an emphasis on community action and civic leadership. The Rutherford Family Collection is a welcome and important addition to a number of other collections that support research and engagement with our state’s diverse history, including the Gates Collection of African American History and Culture; the political papers of the Hon. Avel Gordly, the first African American woman to be elected to the Oregon State Senate; and the records of the Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the local branch of the national organization dedicated to advocacy for Asian American civil rights. As stewards of these invaluable resources, Special Collections is dedicated to their security and preservation so that they may remain available for generations to come. We hope that our commitment to the Rutherford Family Collection will continue to encourage others in our community to both utilize these important resources and to consider sharing their unique historical materials in partnership with the University Library.

Focus on Service: Reference from Humanities Librarian Linda Absher



Serving the Portland State University community and the public, the University Library's reference services meets the research and information needs of the library's 900,000 patrons, along with the numerous users logging the 1.2 million visits to our website. From helping visitors navigate the campus to helping students develop a plan for large research projects, the reference staff serves as information mentors and guides for the campus and community at large.

The reference department's mission is to assist patrons in the discovery of materials to complete or enhance their research experience. In years past, librarians helped users maneuver through an array of print resources and card catalogs to find that perfect book or article. Now we instruct users in searching electronic databases and repositories, connecting them to a world of resources that were, in the pre-internet era, restricted to a select few or simply impossible to access locally.

Staffed by librarians, many of whom are subject specialists in areas such as business

and psychology, and specially-trained library technicians, the reference department has handled over 15,500 questions since last year. Most questions are fielded at the reference desk, located on the second floor of the Millar Library. On an average day, we may be asked "What's an empirical study?" or "How do I find primary resources?"

We also help patrons virtually through a variety of online avenues. Library users interact with us via e-mail or chat services. Recently the reference service adopted texting, answering questions via cell phone. We have also launched a mobile version of the library website, allowing users to search for books and articles on their phones.

The reference staff also participates in community-based initiatives such as L-Net, connecting Oregon citizens directly to reference librarians online. Whether it is a middle school student puzzling over an algebra problem or an adult working on their genealogical history, PSU librarians add value to the local community by solving the public's information and research needs.



Stay in touch with the University Library through Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PortlandStateLibrary> and follow our news @PSULibrary and our historic PSU pictures from the University Archives @PSULibArchives on Twitter.

The Portland State Library's *News Update* is published bi-annually to promote the services, collections, and programs of the Portland State University Library.

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Donor Spotlight: The Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League

This August, the Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) made a significant donation to the University Library's Special Collections. In addition to the documents that make up the JACL historical records project donated to the University Library last year, the Portland JACL made a \$5,000 donation that matched the Oregon Cultural Trust's award supporting the Library's JACL collection. The University Library's Special Collections is the steward of over 23 boxes of historically important records from the Portland JACL. Combined funding from

the Portland JACL and OCT will be used to identify, organize, and preserve these aging and often fragile materials and launch an online searchable finding aid that will be made available to the public, including researchers, educators, students, and community members.

The Japanese American Citizens League is the country's oldest Asian American organization dedicated to preserving civil rights in the United States. Led by Co-Presidents Susan Leedham and Jean Yamamoto, the Portland chapter's records cover a pivotal period in national and local history from the 1930s to the 1980s. The JACL is a membership-driven national organization, founded in 1928, whose mission is to secure and uphold the human and civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry and others and to promote and preserve the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans.

The Portland JACL collection at the University Library features unique items such as the original receipt from the Chapter's purchase of a flag set from Meier & Frank for \$1.75, dated December 8, 1941. The collection also includes scrapbooks, photographs, programs, minutes from meetings, and many more important documents dating from before WWII to the 1980s. The JACL collection is currently available to students and patrons and with the help of the Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Oregon Cultural Trust, efforts are now underway, insuring that these historically important documents will continue to be available in the future.

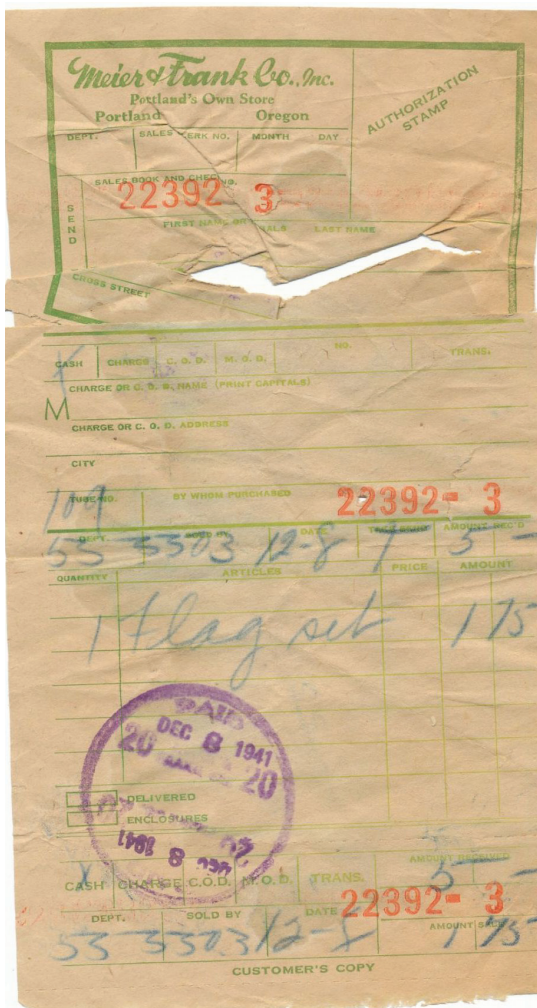
To learn more about the work of the Portland JACL and how you can support its mission, visit: www.pdxjacl.org/.

“We are very pleased that our historical materials have found a home at Portland State University where they can be properly archived and made available for future generations of students, researchers, and others interested in Japanese American studies. We are grateful for the generous matching grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust to make this project possible.”

—Jean Yamamoto,
Co-President,
Portland JACL

Portland State University is grateful for every donation, large and small. Your support makes a difference for our students, faculty, and staff every day.

To learn more about giving opportunities at the University Library, please contact Development Director Jennifer Wilkerson: jwilk@pdx.edu or 503.725.4509.



A receipt for an American flag set, purchased by the Portland JACL on December 8, 1941 from the Meier and Frank department store.



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Upcoming Events at the University Library Free and Open to the Public

3 rd Annual Oregon Archives Crawl	October 6
Special Collections' Center for the Moving Image Celebration*	October 19
Open House Reception with University Librarian Moody*	October 23
Rutherford Family Collection Celebration*	November 8
Jewish Book Month Event	November 14

*Event requires R.S.V.P. to libdev@pdx.edu or 503.725.4509

Additional information for these events can be found on our website:
library.pdx.edu/support/news_and_events/_events.html

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